The UVA School of Nursing views global experience as an integral component to its students’ education. Undergraduate nursing students must be prepared to embrace both the challenges and the exciting opportunities of our global community and to be enriched by programs that involve them in interactions with the people, cultures, and health care of our neighbors worldwide.

Once nursing students enter the workforce, they are entrusted with the care of their patients. These patients will represent human diversity in its rich variations, including race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, socioeconomic status, language, spirituality, and physical ability. Gaining global experience will help students learn skills such as cross-cultural communication, respectful community engagement, critical thinking, empathy, and cultural humility.

**Benefits of Global Experience for Nursing Students**

**Student Testimonial**

“My classmates and I were able to implement a community action plan at Clinica Esperanza to prevent the transmission of chikungunya (a virus spread by mosquitos). Cases are relatively new to the island, with the first patient seen at Clinica Esperanza in December 2014. Being in Roatán boosted my confidence as a future nurse by pushing me outside of my comfort zone. Not having technology to rely on not only enhanced my hands-on skills, but it also emphasized the importance of developing and using my nursing instincts. I met professionals from around the world with many different backgrounds; each and every one taught me something new. There was a strong sense of camaraderie among the clinic volunteers and I have seen what true teamwork can accomplish.” - Crystal Moses, CNL ‘16 student, at Clinica Esperanza in Roatán, Honduras,

**Academic and Timing Considerations**

Because of the SON curriculum sequencing, students can only study abroad for a semester during the fall of their fourth year on a UVA –SON exchange program (see below). These exchanges focus on the clinical portion of your degree program. **Before** participating in an exchange for a semester, the student will have completed all 2nd year courses and the following 3rd year courses:

- NUCO 3110 Adult-Gero Nursing
- NUCO 3310 Pediatric Nursing
- NUCO 3610 Maternal Child Nursing
- NUIP 3420 Pathophysiology/Clinical Management II
- NUIP 3430 Pharmacology/Clinical Management II
- NUIP 3320 and 3330 REAL II (Health Policy, Regulation, Delegation and Informatics) and REAL III (Evidence Based Practice and Research Utilization)

*Students participating in the New Zealand exchange will have completed NUCO 4210 in the spring and will receive credit for NUCO 4310 in the fall; students participating in the Australia exchange will have completed NUCO 4310 in the spring and will receive credit for NUCO 4210 in the fall.*

SON students do have the option to participate in a J-term or summer study abroad program for elective credit and language learning (these programs do not interfere with SON curriculum sequencing and it is not necessary to complete courses listed above prior to departure; these programs count as elective credit only and **do not** give credit for nursing major). Suggestions are on the following page. Volunteer opportunities and other non-credit options are also available. In particular, programs that combine education, research, practice, and service further enhance a student’s international experience as related to nursing.
Global Opportunities in Nursing

Oceania

- **Australia**: UVA Exchange: University of Queensland
- **New Zealand**: UVA Exchange: University of Auckland

Europe

- **Cyprus**: Health Sciences, Global Learning Semesters
- **Denmark**: Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS): Health Delivery and Prioritization in Northern Europe
- **Spain**: UVA in Valencia, Spain

Caribbean, Central & South America

- **Chile**: IES: Santiago, Chile: Health Studies
- **Nicaragua**: UVA Nursing in Nicaragua: Community Health Nursing
- **Nicaragua**: UVA Nursing in Nicaragua: Trends an Issues in Clinical Nursing Practice
- **Nicaragua**: January Term: UVA in Nicaragua
- **St. Kitts and Nevis**: January Term: UVA in St. Kitts and Nevis

Non-credit Bearing Options

- **UVA Center for Global Health**
- **South Africa—Water and Health in Limpopo Province**
- **Nursing Students Without Borders**

Global Opportunities in Nursing

Julia Smith, University of Auckland, fall 2011

Marissa Sylvia, BSN student, St. Kitts and Nevis, J-term 2015

Lillian Ware, Jennifer Steuve, and Mary Kay O’Brien, CNL students, University of Venda South Africa, summer 2016